

working children in hazardous occupations by the year 2002. So far 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to cover over 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided non-formal education, Vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend etc. Apart from this, a massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched against the evil of child labour at national, regional and district level. Funds for district level awareness generation have been released to 133 most child labour endemic districts in this country to sensitize people against the practice of child labour. These measures will be consolidated and expanded in the coming years. During 1994-95, the expenditure incurred on the programme was Rs.34.00 crores (Approximately). The allocations for various child labour related programmes for 1996-97 is Rs.56.00 crores.

(c) While the State-wise details regarding the number of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations and put in special schools are not available, it is estimated that about 1.00 lakh children have been withdrawn from hazardous occupations and are presently in schools.

Mansarovar Pilgrimage

2815. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide financial assistance to the pilgrims visiting Mansarovar situated in China on the pattern of assistance being provided to Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The charges payable by a pilgrim going on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, in 1996, include a payment of US \$ 500 to the Chinese authorities and Rs.8,250 to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN). For the Yatra during 1996, the Government decided to peg the amount payable to KMVN by the pilgrim at Rs. 5,000 per pilgrim; Government would bear the rest i.e. Rs. 3,250 per pilgrim.

In addition, Government bears the expenses for facilities provided to the pilgrims which includes medical assistance, security and escort cover through ITBP and UP State police, communication links between Delhi and places enroute on the Indian side and with China, aerial aviation of pilgrims in case of emergencies, cost of publication of advertisements and partial cost of creation of infrastructure of logistics and facilities on the Indian side.

Schemes for Ex-Servicemen

2816. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the schemes being run for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen and the dependents of the deceased soldiers in the Tribal, rural backward and plateau regions in Bihar;

(b) the year-wise amount spent on the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-servicemen/dependents of deceased soldiers during the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N.SOMU) : (a) to (c). Important Resettlement and Welfare schemes for Ex-Servicemen implemented in various States including the State of Bihar are as under :-

Resettlement Schemes

(i) Central Government have reserved 10 per cent of Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent Group 'D' posts for ex-Servicemen. 10 per cent posts of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5 per cent in Group 'D' posts to ex-Servicemen.

(ii) Loans/Financial Assistance for setting up small scale industries, Service industries, Agro-Based industries, Khadi & Village industries are provided to ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II, and SEMFEX-III.

(iii) Government have reserved 7.5% of the Oil product agencies i.e., LPG Kerosene Oil agencies and Petrol Pumps for widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war widows, war disabled and for disabled personnel during peace time with disability of 50% and above.

(iv) A Scheme to raise ex-servicemen coal transport companies is also in operation in the state of Bihar.

Welfare Schemes

(i) Ex-Servicemen are provided free medical treatment in the Military Hospitals.

(ii) Ex-Servicemen suffering from serious diseases are given financial assistance equal to 60% of the total expenditure, for treatment in civil hospitals in case they cannot be treated in

Military Hospitals and have not availed similar assistance from other sources.

- (iii) Ex-Servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.
- (iv) Children of Defence Personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the Department of Education, are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fee levied by the institution.
- (v) Reservation of 25 seats in MBBS and one seat in BDS have been made for the wards of ex-Servicemen killed or disabled in action or during peace time due to attributable causes.
- (vi) Two seats in each of the six IITs are reserved for children of the Defence/Para Military Forces personnel Killed or permanently disabled in action.
- (vii) Twenty five percent seats are reserved for wards of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel in Sainik Schools.
- (viii) 50% concession is provided in air fare for travel in domestic flight of Indian Airlines to recipients of gallantry awards of Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Ashok Chakra & Kirti Chakra: permanently disabled officers and dependent members of their families; and to the war widows of post Independent era.
- (ix) 75% concession in rail fare for travel in II class is available to war widows.
- (x) 35 War memorial hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies. Kendriya Sainik Board also provides education grant to the children staying in these hostels. There are 4 War Memorial Hostels located in Bihar.
- (xi) Kendriya Sainik Board and Rajya/Zila Sainik Boards provide financial assistance from Welfare Funds to old and infirm ex-Servicemen and their widows in indigent circumstances. Financial assistance is also provided to needy ex-Servicemen for medical treatment, daughter's marriages, repairs of house etc.
- (xii) 238 Sainik Bhawans/Rest Houses spread all over the country have been established for ex-Servicemen. There are 8 Sainik Rest Houses in Bihar.

2. In addition, State Government of Bihar is also providing a number of facilities/concessions to ex-Servicemen.

3. Year-wise amount spent on welfare and rehabilitation schemes for ex-Servicemen and dependents of the deceased soldiers in the State of Bihar including tribal area and plateau region, and the

number of beneficiaries during last three years were as under :-

Year	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Spent
1993	4336	Rs. 26,50,851/-
1994	4466	Rs. 37,44,207/-
1995	2896	Rs. 25,57,472/-

Agreement Signed with Canada

2817. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five agreements were signed with Canada recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including areas covered, salient features, cost involved and quantum of foreign exchange in case of each agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) One Agreement and four MOUs were signed with Canada during the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India in January, 1996.

(b) (i) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Finance and the Canadian Department of National Revenue for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

(ii) MOU on cooperation in Telecommunications was signed between the Ministry of Communications and the Canadian Department of Industry to promote the expansion and modernisation of India's telecommunication services through cooperation for voice, data and video services in urban and rural areas, introduction of new transmission, switching and network management facilities, etc.

(iii) MOU in the field of Highway Transportation was signed by the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Government of Ontario, Canada for cooperation in the expressway development programme in India. The areas of cooperation include packaging of privatisation projects, evolving bid documents for privately financed projects, management of privately financed projects, development of technical and operational standards, assessment of hardware and software requirements for operation and development of a highway management system, exploring possibility of bilateral